

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**INTERN PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

**EMPLOYER:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**CONTACT PERSON'S NAME/TITLE:** Chris Hammond/Wildlife Biologist R1, Kristi DuBois/Wildlife Biologist R2

**ADDRESS:** 490 North Meridian Road

**CITY:** Kalispell

**STATE:** MT

**ZIP:** 59901

**PHONE:** 406-751-4582

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** chammond@mt.gov

**DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT:** Monday, January 25, 2016

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Friday, March 4, 2016 at 5:00 PM (postmarked)

**\*\*STUDENTS MUST BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE\*\***

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**POSITION TITLE:** Nongame Intern

**# OF POSITIONS:** 1

**LOCATION(S):** Kalispell, MT and Missoula, MT

**WORK START/END DATES:** Approximately May 13<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>

**HOURS/WEEK:** 40

**TRAINING/ORIENTATION DATES:** May 7<sup>th</sup> (**Attendance is mandatory**)

**COMPENSATION (PAY, PER DIEM, HOUSING, VEHICLE, ETC):**

\$9.00- 9.50/hr plus per diem at state rates; housing may be available. *There is no overtime for this position, paid holidays, or additional compensation for working on holidays or weekends.* A state vehicle will likely be available. **Individuals may need to use personal vehicle for part or all of summer if state a vehicle not available. Interns would be compensated for mileage at approximately \$0.50/mile.**

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:**

The intern will, in coordination with local biologists, conduct nongame surveys and inventories throughout Region 1 and Region 2. Interns may also help with management and habitat work on local WMAs, conservation easements or other important wildlife areas, and give presentations to people at meetings, schools, outdoor events, homeowners meetings, citizen organizations and other venues. Interns educate boaters, anglers, and other recreating members of the public visiting or living on Montana's common loon lakes about loon biology, nesting requirements, disturbance effects, and loon sign program. In coordination with local biologists, interns conduct common loon surveys, deploy and collect floating signs; give campground or other presentations; monitor loons for leg bands, keep daily log of activities; prepares final summary report.

Loon training is usually the first weekend in May is not optional. It includes basics of common loon identification and ecology, public outreach tools and methods, data recording, contacts, daily guidance, information on the use of floating signs and other materials during a full day of required training usually during the first weekend in May provided by the Montana Loon Society and other agencies. A notebook with data forms, contact information, maps, and other materials are given to each loon ranger at the beginning of the field season and returned to FWP at the end of the internship. Each intern completes a year-end report covering the extent of their efforts, summary of monitoring results by lake or visits, and recommendations for the next field season. They should also be able to assist in the entry of the loon data into the statewide loon database. Training for other duties will be determined after the start of the internship. Contact Chris Hammond in Region One for more details for intern position duties.

**SKILLS, ABILITIES, KNOWLEDGE NEEDED (EDUCATION; UNDERGRAD/GRAD LEVEL, SUGGESTED/REQUIRED MAJORS):**

Good communication skills, ability to work independently; 1-2 years in biology, wildlife biology, ornithology; or wildlife or recreation management or fisheries; ability to use 4-wheel drive vehicles and motor or non-motorized boats (canoes or kayaks) to access lakes. Able to carry 35-50 lbs. Interns should have high quality binoculars (10x40) and be able to use high powered spotting scopes for identify birds and color band combinations. **Interns will need to keep in close contact with multiple agencies and organizations or individuals depending on their location and assignments.**

**APPLICATION MATERIALS/PROCEDURES (RESUME, COVER LETTER, REFERENCES, ETC.):**

Submit 1 digital copy of current **resume** identifying experience and skills related to the intern position description with list of 3 reference contacts. Also send **cover or transmittal letter** explaining the reasons for your interest in the internship, personal vehicle that you may have for use if needed, and why you are qualified to do the work. Send above to Chris Hammond, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 N. Meridian Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901 or to [chammond@mt.gov](mailto:chammond@mt.gov) no later than 5:00 pm on March 4, 2016. Selections are generally made within 2 weeks of closing date.

**COOPERATING SPONSORS OF PROJECT:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Nongame Program, Regional Wildlife and Fisheries Programs, Montana Loon Society (Non profit), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Dept. of Natural Resources, Flathead, Lolo, and Kootenai National Forests, Plum Creek Timber Co./Avista Corporation, Ashley Lake Property Owners Assoc., Biodiversity Research Institute

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (HOUSING OF ANY KIND PROVIDED OR POSSIBLY AVAILABLE I.E. TRAILER, FREE CAMP SPOT, BASEMENT APARTMENT, EXTRA SLEEPING ROOM, ETC.):**

The Loon Ranger program began in 2000 with a single Loon Ranger intern in the Blackfoot and Clearwater Valleys. The program has grown to at least 3 loon ranger interns that cover most of the common loon-breeding habitat in northwest Montana. The Forest Service has also included loon ranger type duties in the Forest Service Wildlife Technician program. Common loons are highly vulnerable to disturbance during the nesting season. Montana supports only about 60-80 pairs of common loons. Of these, only about 30 pairs produce 34-45 chicks each year.

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